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times employed for *anterior*, and in some other instances, as in naming the dorsal pancreas *accessory pancreas*, the bias of human anatomy is apparent. In this respect Professor Wilder's rejected principle ought not to be abandoned. The German committee has adopted thirty-four of the forty terms sanctioned by the American Neurological Association; in ten of these, however, nouns which had been dropped as superfluous are retained. In general, the committee declined to introduce new terms, to combine nouns and adjectives, or to eliminate syllables or letters for brevity. It followed Professor Wilder's advice in preferring descriptive to personal names, definitely retaining only two of the latter, *Wolffian* and *Muellerian*. Intestinal glands, parotid duct, splenic nodule, and renal corpuscle replace glands of Lieberkuehn, Stenson's duct, and Malpighian corpuscle, the last term having been applied to radically different parts of the spleen and kidney.

After a trial of more than ten years this anatomical nomenclature adopted at Basle, and known consequently as the BNA, has become the standard terminology. The writer has found it necessary to have the report of the German committee always at hand. This report has been made easily available by Professor Barker of Johns Hopkins University. In a preface of twelve pages he describes the origin of the Basle nomenclature. On the left hand pages of his book are the Latin terms in two columns, reprinted in full and without modification from the German report. On the right hand pages there are two corresponding columns of English translations of the terms, together with some of the current rejected names. He says, on page 1, "The English vocabulary is simply explanatory; in many instances it would be unwise to use the English synonyms given, and in many more instances anatomists would differ as to the most suitable English equivalent to be chosen. Each anatomist is of course at liberty to use whatever English equivalent he desires for the official Latin terms. Students are strongly advised, however, to use the original Latin terms as English words. The Latin terms are the only authorized ones." We agree with Professor Barker that "the sooner a general decision to adopt these terms is reached, the better it will be of anatomical instruction and research, and the easier it will be for teacher and taught."

F. T. L.

The Blending and Overlap of Instincts in Birds.[1] — Wild birds are described as passing annually through a cycle of instinctive activities including (1) spring migration; (2) courtship and mating; (3) nest building; (4) egg laying and incubation; (5) care of young; and (6) fall migration. Some birds, like the robin and blue bird, pass through two or three reproductive cycles before the fall migration. The fish hawks and eagles which repair their old nests in the autumn do not act in "anticipation of spring" but exhibit a recurrence of the nesting instinct, due to beginning a new cycle which is never finished. Young birds may be abandoned in the fall when the migratory impulse overlaps the parental instinct. "An adult robin has been seen to offer a string to its fully grown young, and try to cram it down the throat of a fledgling. Later the old bird flew with the string into a tree. This was the result of the overlapping of two reproductive cycles. The bird was alternately swayed by opposing impulses, now being impelled to gather nesting material when she picked up the string, now by parental instinct to feed her young when she tried to serve it, and again possibly by the instinct of building when she flew with the string into a tree."

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[1] Herrick, F. H. Analysis of the cyclical instincts of birds.— The blending and overlap of instincts. *Journ. of Comp. Neur.*, 1907, vol. 17, pp. 194–197.

When a vireo's nest contains a cowbird's egg and a new story is added to the nest by the vireo, it is not for the purpose of eliminating the cowbird's egg, which it does so perfectly. It indicates rather that the reproductive cycle has been broken by fear, and a new one is begun, in these rare cases the old nest being retained as a site to build upon. The herring gull also will bury its eggs when its cycle has been interrupted through fear.

This interesting interpretation of anomalous actions in birds is followed in the Journal of Comparative Neurology by an extraordinary explanation of the brooding habit of the male salamander, *Cryptobranchus allegheniensis.*[1] It states that "after the eggs are deposited they are usually guarded for a time by the male, who fights and drives away other hellbenders which attempt to eat the eggs. The male himself eats some of the eggs, but on account of the slowness of his digestion is unable to eat more than a small proportion, hence his presence is in the main protective. In defending the eggs the male is only guarding his own food supply: the origin of the brooding habit in this case seems to be the feeding habit." If one doubts that the perpetuation of this species depends upon a providential slowness of digestion, a blending of the feeding and brooding instincts may be substituted.

F. T. L.

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[1] Smith, B. G. The habits and life history of *Cryptobranchus allegheniensis. Journ. of Comp. Neur.*, 1907, vol. 27, pp. 197–198.